(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against them; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). No case of unauthorised printing of postage stamps at Ghaziabad has come to the notice of the Department.

Workers in Pesticides Factories

3404. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper training and safeguards are ensured by the Government for the workers engaged in handling hazardous chemicals and working in pesticides factories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone coverage in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3405. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone coverage in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far;

(b) the progress made during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for expansion of telecome services in the above Union Territory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All major towns have been covered with telephone facility. All District Head Quarters, Sub-divisional Head Quarters and 6 out of a total 7 Tehsil Head Quarters have been provided with STD facility. 93 out of a total 292 villages have been provided with Public Telephone facility. At present 24 Telephone exchanges are working with equipped capacity of 6581 lines, 5153 Direct Exchange Lines and waiting list 2326.

(b) The progress made during each of last three years is given in Statement.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The department has planned to add 2450 lines of switching capacity, 2000 new telephone connections and 201 village public telephones during 1996-97. This includes replacement/expansion of telephone exchanges at Port Blair, Campbellbay, Hut Bay, Revelock, Brichgunj and Lapathy. And opening of new telephone exchanges at Chouldary and Ograbraj.

STATEMENT

Progress made during each of last three years in A&N Islands

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. No. of Exchanges Commissioned	3	4	3
2. Net Switching Capacity added	680	1417	1384
3. Net DELs provided	301	722	1320
4. VPT provided	7	18	36
5. STD facility provided to No. of Stations in the circle (A&N)	2	1	2

Posts Offices in the Country

3406. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in the rural and urban areas, State/Union Territory-wise, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices set up in rural and urban areas during each of the last three years, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for improvement/expansions/speedy mail delivery/proper supply of postal stationary of postal services in the rural and urban areas, separately;